

Legal Assistance Briefs

Issue 1

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The expiration date is found about 3/4s of the way down the permit. The line says "FIRST PERMIT VALID UNTIL". (Its written in english and italian.)

To renew your sojourner permit you will need:

- Valid Official or No-fee passport
- Orders
- Three passport photographs
- Your old sojourner permit

You can get free passport photographs at the public affairs office in the Admin I building.

Passport photographs may also be purchased at the Navy Exchange or on the local economy.

Sojourner Permits Must be Renewed Before the Expiration Date

Most of us know that military dependents and civilian personnel are required to have sojourner permits to remain legally in Italy. But did you know that a sojourner permit has an expiration date? Up until a couple of years ago, Italian immigration officials issued sojourner permits for the length of a military member's tour. Additionally, Italian officials often looked the other way when it came to requiring military dependents to even have a sojourner permit.

Unfortunately, those attitudes are a thing of the past. Starting in the Spring of 1999, military dependents and civilian personnel are required to obtain a visa prior to entry into Italy. A strict interpretation of the Italian immigration laws led local authorities to issue new sojourner permits for the length of the initial entry visas. In most cases this is one year, however, it can be as short as 30 days.

What this means is that most people's sojourner permits will expire at some point during their tour, probably within six to nine months of their arrival! It is your responsibility to come to the legal assistance office 30 days prior to your expiration date to start the renewal process.



cess. If you fail to do so you are considered an illegal alien and you could be required to leave the country and re-enter, this time with a new visa! Without a valid sojourner permit, you could also be denied re-entry into Italy if you travel outside of Italy on leave.

**Protect yourself,
renew on time!**

How to Renew Your Sojourner Permit

You will need to come to the legal assistance office located on the second deck of the Admin II building at Capodocchino with the documents listed on the left of this page. We take walk-ins for the renewal of sojourner permits Monday through Friday from 0900 until 1130. If you can not make it in the morning, please call us and we can make arrangements for you to come in at a convenient

time. We can be contacted at DSN 626-4576 or commercial 081-568-4576.

Once you arrive at the legal assistance office, you fill out a short form and sign a renewal application. The entire process takes only 10 to 15 minutes.

We can not process incomplete packages so please call if you have questions...



Processing by the Italian authorities can take two weeks to two months, so please be patient. You will receive a postcard from the Legal Assistance Office when your sojourner permit is ready to be picked up.